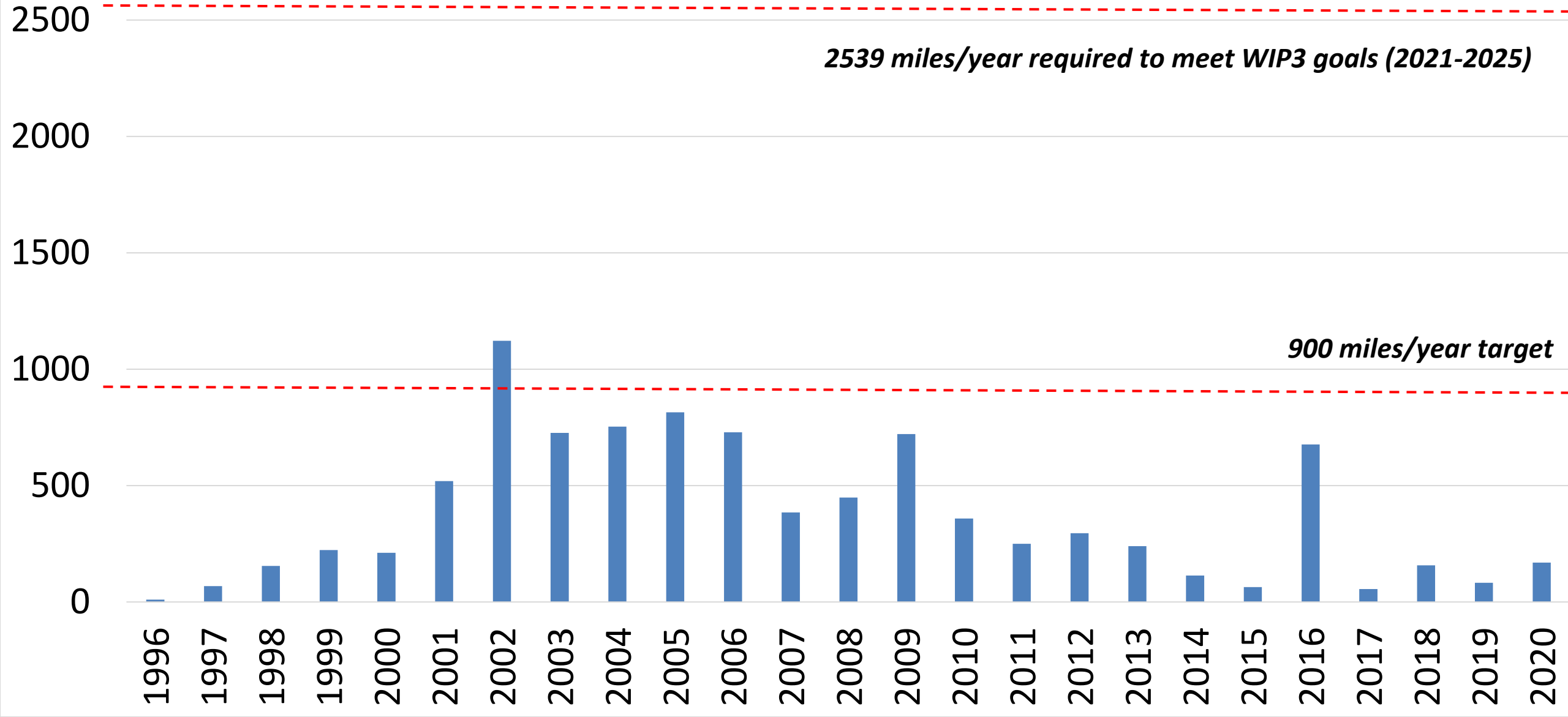


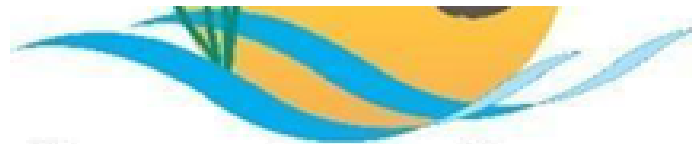


Riparian Forest Buffers: Leadership Workshop Summary and Next Steps

*Cindy Dunn, PA DCNR
Katie Brownson, USFS*

Miles of Riparian Forest Buffers Planted in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, 1996-2020





Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

[Meeting Link](#)

Password: ForestBuffers

Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

[Workshop Webpage](#)

Purpose: This workshop is focused on accelerating Riparian Forest Buffer (RFB) implementation and will attempt to address the scale and immediacy of the needed effort on a state-by-state basis. Each state will present their draft Action Strategy for Buffers. These Strategies will be at the core of this workshop.

Objectives:

- 1) Discuss state RFB Action Strategies for expanding forest buffers.
- 2) Develop recommendations for specific roles for the Partnership in advancing buffer goals.

Pre workshop Webinars:

[Webinar 1](#) and [Webinar 2](#)

Agenda

- **Welcome & Opening Comments** 9:30 – 9:40 a.m.
 - *Welcome, Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources*
 - *Admin & Housekeeping Notes, Sherry Witt, GDIT*
- **Retrospective: How We Got Here** 9:40 – 9:55 a.m.
Carin Bisland, EPA
- **Summary of RFB Strategy Review System (SRS) Actions** 9:55 – 10:10 a.m.

What is working well?



- State and local buffer programs that complement CREP
- Characteristics of effective buffer programs:
 - Efficient one-stop shop for technical and financial assistance
 - No out-of-pocket costs for landowners
 - Available to non-agricultural landowners
 - Maintenance included
 - Quick and easy to enroll and get buffers planted (continual operations)

Common challenges



- Ensuring adequate maintenance
- Inadequate staffing capacity to meet technical assistance need (including staff retention)
- Effectively utilizing complex USDA programs
- Need for dedicated state-level buffer programs and funding (in some states)

Take-Aways from the April 27th Workshop

Good

- Engagement
- Pre-work
- Briefing Leadership
- Focus
- Cross-jurisdictional learning

Could Be Better

- Regional coordination opportunities
- Identifying new buffer-focused funding opportunities

KEY: This is just one Workshop. What really matters is how these State Plans get implemented, will CBP take an active role, how can we position states for success, etc.

Next Steps

